NEWS OF NOTE

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW

Your editor is serving as co-chairman for the National Topical Stamp Show that will be held 31 July through 2 August 2015, in Clackamas, Oregon, a suburb of Portland. The other co-chairman is Orlando (Orlie) Trier. We are finalizing our preparations to make this a fabulous exhibition. This is the annual national level exhibition sponsored by the American Topical Association (ATA). I believe it is the largest topical stamp show in the world.

The show will take place in the Monarch Hotel, which is the same venue that hosted NTSS in 2008. The hotel has been renovated since that time and it is offering special show room rates starting at $99 plus tax. These rates are only good until 29 June 2015, so you need to make your reservations now. See the NTSS website at *http://www.americantopicalassn.org/ntss/ntss2015.shtml*, for information and links to the hotel reservations.

Although this show focuses on topical collecting, the more than 20 dealers that will be on hand stock the entire range of philatelic materials and supplies. If you have a friend who is not a topical collector, bring them along.

In addition to the dealer bourse that also includes several cachet makers, the show will feature an all-thematic philatelic exhibition. There will also be a judged Study Unit Literature Competition in which our own journal, *Biophilately*, will be entered.

Unlike most other national level stamp shows, NTSS also offers several very special events. On Thursday before the show opens, the ATA will offer a Portland City Tour. This tour is sponsored by Orlie Trier. It begins with lunch at the McMenamin's Kennedy School followed by a stop at the Northwest Philatelic Library and a tour of the Pittock Mansion. The final stop will be at Powell's City of Books, the largest new and used book store in the world. See the NTSS website indicated above for more details.



On Monday following the show, the ATA will offer a full day tour to Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument. This spectacular site is on the bucket list of many people. See a full description of this tour at the NTSS website indicated above.

The President's Reception will take place on Friday evening at the Old Spaghetti Factory across the street from the Monarch Hotel. This event is a chance to socialize and enjoy good food with other topical collectors.

On Saturday, the ATA will present its awards banquet at the Monarch Hotel. Following a buffet dinner, the Distinguished Topical Philatelist for 2015 will be introduced and exhibition awards will be presented. This year the DTP is our own Donald Wright, Associate Editor for the Entomology column. The Biology Study Unit has contributed $1000 from our treasury to sponsor this event. Again, see the NTSS website for full details.

It is entirely appropriate that this year's DTP is a member of the Biology Unit because our Unit is the featured study unit at NTSS 2015. I strongly urge all of our Unit members to attend the show this year to help celebrate this recognition. The Biology Unit will hold its annual meeting at NTSS on Saturday, 1 August at 10:00 AM.

You can register for the show in advance on the NTSS website. I expect Unit members will all get a snazzy ribbon to wear. These shows offer a great opportunity to meet and socialize with other collectors who share your collecting interests and to shop with dealers who specialize in topical materials. There are presentations and other events that will be of interest to everyone.